

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is included in this amendment.

**The Rejection:**

At page 3 of the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,743,815 to Gee et al. Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above.

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above. As pointed out at col. 8, lines 41-43 "Variable VQ1 is updated by adding to its previous value a constant VQ1D which is the slew rate [emphasis added]," and does not disclose that "each incremental value is selected from a plurality of different incremental values so that a maximum output current rating and a maximum output power rating of the output circuit are not exceeded at any value of the drive voltage while slewing the voltage of the DC power from the present value to the final value," as recited in amended claim 1. Thus, Gee et al. does not anticipate claim 1.

**Allowable Subject Matter:**

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 11-20 are indicated as allowed and claims 2-10 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the features of original claim 1; thus, claims 2-10 are now deemed to be in allowable form.

**Conclusion:**

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered as the amendment either places the claims in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal.

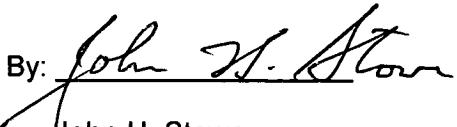
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 50-3333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

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By:   
John H. Stowe  
Registration No. 32,863

Direct Correspondence to:

Agilent Technologies, Inc.  
Legal Department DI 429  
P.O. Box 7599  
Loveland Colorado 80357-0599  
Customer No. 022878